

REMARKS

Claims 1-73 are pending in the application. Claims 1 - 5, 41, 49, 51, 53, 57, 58, and claims 62 have been currently amended.

35 USC 101& 112

Claim 1 is amended to recite that manufacturing stages of a manufacturing process. The use of interconnection cells are to connect input and output data of the stage in order to make a prediction model that connects between the input and output data for the stage. The user then chooses the output he wants and finds the input or settings that give rise thereto. He then physically applies the settings to the manufacturing process. The claim is written such that it cannot be infringed by anyone who does not apply the settings to a manufacturing process, but rather requires the user to physically apply the settings to a manufacturing process, thereby modifying the manufacturing process. A manufacturing process and a method of modifying the process is patentable subject matter. Since a person would have to apply settings to an actual manufacturing process and thereby modify the process it is submitted that the claim as a whole is allowable. That is to say the claim taken as a whole requires a modification to an actual manufacturing process, and this is irrespective of how the individual cell is defined, although the claim clearly defines that the interconnection cell is associated with the manufacturing stage.

Corresponding amendments have been made to the remaining independent claims 41, 49, 51, 53, 57, 58 and 62, and these claims are believed to be allowable for the same reasons.

Request for Continued Examination

It is noted that a Request for Continued Examination was filed for this case on 7th July 2006, together with the response to the Final Office Action. Nevertheless the Examiner issued an advisory action on July 26, 2007 in reaction to that response.

It is believed that the issuance of the advisory action was therefore not proper. However this supplemental amendment does attempt to address the issues raised in the advisory action.

An early Action on the Merits or an Allowance of the case based on the present amendments is earnestly and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Martin D. Moynihan".

Martin D. Moynihan
Registration No. 40,338

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